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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/563,249 | PREISENDORFER, GERHARD | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | JAMES M. HEWITT | 3679 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the reply filed 9/16/10.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27 and 29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20101117</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20101117</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The replacement drawing sheets were received on 9/16/10 and are acceptable.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ryan Flandro on 11/15/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

The abstract has been rewritten as follows:

--ABSTRACT

A connector seal device for connecting a branch pipe to a transverse opening of a main pipe, including a hollow elastomer insert of a first material and a pipe union of a harder second material. The elastomer insert may include a flexible support collar, a sealing wall region with a tapered inside surface having first locking ring zones, and an outside surface adapted to fit the transverse opening. The pipe union may include an

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engagement end with a tapered outside surface having second locking ring zones. The pipe union may include a socket end adapted to cooperate with the branch pipe. When the elastomer insert is inserted into the transverse opening and the pipe union is pushed into the elastomer insert, the first and second locking ring zones engage in the manner of ratchet teeth to press the elastomer insert against the transverse opening.--

Claims 3, 12, 24 and 27 have been amended as follows:

3. **(Currently Amended)** The connector seal device as defined in claim 1, wherein the first and second locking ring zones are provided with a sliding agent.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The connector seal device as defined in claim 1, further comprising a second hollow ~~plug-type~~ elastomer insert composed in part of the first material, the second elastomer insert adapted to be inserted from an inside of the main pipe into the transverse opening; and a hollow press-on cone adapted to be inserted into the second elastomer insert, wherein the second elastomer insert and the hollow press-on cone include locking ring zones corresponding to those on the elastomer insert and the pipe union, respectively.

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24. **(Currently Amended)** The connector seal device as defined in claim 22, wherein the at least one pressure sensor is arranged on or in ~~one of~~ the elastomer insert, the pipe union, or a hollow press-on cone.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The connector seal device as defined in claim 26, wherein the at least one transponder and/or data carrier is arranged on or in ~~one of~~ the elastomer insert, the pipe union, or a hollow press-on cone.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. HEWITT whose telephone number is (571)272-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James M Hewitt/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679